

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 IGA-02 AID-05 PRS-01 ACDA-07 OMB-01
TRSE-00 MC-02 /062 W
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R 182207Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3599
INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL
SECDEF WASHDC
DIA
JCS
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 1816

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PPRO MASS OVIP EC
SUBJECT: ECUADOREAN MISSION TO WASHINGTON

REF: A) STATE 60133; B) QUITO 1731; C) QUITO 1702
D) QUITO 1408; E) QUITO 1458

1. SUMMARY. MEMBERS OF GOE MISSION CONFIRMED MARCH 18 THEIR UNDERSTANDING THAT THEY ARE UNLIKELY TO OBTAIN DEFINITIVE RESPONSES FROM USG TO REQUESTS FOR SPECIFIC ITEMS OF DEFENSE EQUIPMENT. THEY INTEND PRIMARILY TO EXPRESS CONCERN OVER ECUADOR'S SECURITY AND HOPE TO GAIN SYMPATHETIC UNDERSTANDING OF USG FOR ECUADOR'S DEFENSE NEEDS, BUT WILL ALSO DISCUSS OTHER ASPECTS OF OUR RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE AMBASSADOR, PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE, AND THE CHARGE HAVE BOTH STRESSED WITH GOE THAT ITS MISSION TO WASHINGTON COULD NOT EXPECT SPECIFIC ANSWERS WITH REGARD TO REQUESTS FOR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT, SINCE THE NEW ADMINISTRATION IS STILL
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IN THE PROCESS OF DEFINING ITS POLICIES ON ARMS TRANSFERS. CHARGE HAS MADE VERY CLEAR THAT USG EXPECTS DISCUSSIONS TO COVER OVER ALL GOE-USG RELATIONS INCLUDING THE BROAD ASPECTS OF ECUADOR'S MILITARY MODERNIZATION PROGRAM, BUT NOT FOCUSING EXCLUSIVELY REPEAT EXCLUSIVELY ON ECUADOR'S SPECIFIC DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS AND/OR THE KFIR DECISION. THAT THE GOE DEL UNDERSTANDS THAT IT IS UNLIKELY TO OBTAIN DEFINITIVE RES-

PONSES TO REQUESTS FOR SPECIFIC DEFENSE EQUIPMENT WAS RE-CONFIRMED ON MORNING MARCH 18 BY BOTH SUBSECRETARY AYALA AND ADMIRAL OLMEDO SEPARATELY TO CHARGE, AFTER EMBASSY'S RECEIPT REF A.

3. ADMIRAL OLMEDO TOLD CHARGE AT AN ECUADOREAN NAVAL CEREMONY THAT GOE DEL IN ITS MEETING WITH UNDERSECRETARY AND IN MEETINGS WITH OTHER USG OFFICIALS INTENDED TO: A) DISCUSS HOW ECUADOR SEES THE CURRENT IMBALANCE OF MILITARY POWER AND THE RESULTANT INSTABILITY WITHIN THE REGION, B) DESCRIBE PAST AND PRESENT RELATIONS BETWEEN ECUADOR AND PERU, C) EXPRESS GOE DISAPPOINTMENT AND CONSTERNATION AT THE USG DECISION ON THE KFIR, D) SUBMIT THAT USG LIMITATION OF ARMS TO A FRIENDLY COUNTRY IS DIFFICULT TO COMPREHEND WHEN THAT COUNTRY'S POTENTIAL ENEMY IS RECEIVING COSTLY, SOPHISTICATED OFFENSIVE WEAPONS FROM THE USSR, AND E) ASK FOR USG UNDERSTANDING AND A WILLINGNESS TO SELL ECUADOR MODEST AMOUNTS OF EQUIPMENT "DESPERATELY" REQUIRED FOR ITS SECURITY. OLMEDO SAID GOE MISSION DID NOT PLAN TO PRESENT A LENGTHY LIST OF EQUIPMENT; BUT WOULD STRESS THE GOE'S URGENT NEED TO PURCHASE AN INTEGRATED AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM (INCLUDING MISSILES), WHICH HE HOPED ECUADOR WOULD BE ABLE TO ACQUIRE FROM THE US. CHARGE EMPHASIZED THAT USG WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GIVE A CONCRETE REPLY TO THIS REQUEST AT THIS TIME. OLMEDO SAID THE MISSION WOULD DISCUSS OTHER ASPECTS OF THE US-ECUADOREAN RELATIONSHIP, BUT STATED THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE VISIT WAS TO DRAW CLOSER TO THE US AND SEEK ITS HELP IN ORDER TO AVOID HAVING TO GO TO OTHER COUNTRIES FOR DEFENSE PURCHASES. CONFIDENTIAL

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4. SUBSECRETARY AYALA TOLD CHARGE IN MEETING AT MFA THAT GOE WELL UNDERSTOOD THAT CONCRETE ANSWERS TO SPECIFIC REQUESTS FOR EQUIPMENT MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE DURING THE MEETINGS. HE REITERATED HIS DESIRE TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECTS OUTLINED IN REFS C AND D.

5. OLMEDO SAID GOE CURRENTLY DID NOT INTENT TO ANNOUNCE PUBLICLY THE \$5 MILLION INCREASE IN FY-77 FMS CREDITS WHEN GOE DEL RETURNS FROM US, SINCE THIS IS A RELATIVELY SMALL AMOUNT IN TERMS OF OVERALL NEEDS AND WOULD BE BELITTLED BY GROWING NUMBER OF CRITICS OF USG POLICIES WITHIN ECUADOREAN MILITARY AND SOCIETY. HE SAID THAT PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT EARLIER, AS SUGGESTED BY GOE, WOULD HAVE BEEN HELPFUL (REF E).
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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 18-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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